

Message Text

PAGE 01 ZAGREB 00807 211037Z

71

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL ZAGREB

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4015

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ZAGREB 807

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINT, YO, US

SUBJECT: CROATIAN VIEWS ON CURRENT US-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS AND
OTHER TOPICAL ISSUES

1. A PROMINENT ZAGREB DOCTOR, WHO IS AS IMPORTANT IN
CROATIAN POLITICAL CIRCLES AS HE IS IN CROATIAN MEDICAL CIRCLES,
MADE THE FOLLOWING THOUGHT-PROVOKING COMMENTS TO THE CONSUL
GENERAL ON SEPTEMBER 19.

2. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE PUZZLEMENT IN CROATIAN PARTY CIRCLES
ABOUT THE "SHARPNESS" IN THE CONDUCT OF YUGOSLAV FOREIGN POLICY
INTHE LAST SIX MONTHS. FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID, IT IS NOT CLEAR
WHY THE YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT HAS ATTACKED AMBASSADOR SILBERMAN,
OR WHY THE YUGOSLAVS LAUNCHED THE BITTER CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE
US IN CONNECTION WITH THE RECENT CROATIAN EMIGRE HIJACKING OF
THE TWA PLANE, OR WHY YUGOSLAVIA HAS BEEN RAISING SUCH A FUSS
ABOUT THE MINORITIES LIVING IN AUSTRIA. HE ALSO NOTED THAT
MILAN SUNDIC, A RADIO COMMENTATOR FROM BELGRADE, "WHO IS A
SPOKESMAN FOR OFFICIAL VIEWS," HAS RECENTLY BEEN SHARPLY
CRITICAL OF THE SOVIET UNION.

3. HE SPECULATSD THAT THIS MAY BE THS WORK OF A SERBIAN
CABAL LED BY FOREIGN MINISTER MINIC, WHO, HE SAID, HAD
PREVIOUSLY BEEN A SUPPORTER OF RANKOVIC.
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PAGE 02 ZAGREB 00807 211037Z

4. HE MENTIONED THAT THE FORMER PROMINENT SERBIAN POLITICAL
LEADER, MIJALKO TODOROVIC, MIGHT SOMEHOW BE INVOLVED IN COMPLI-
CATED MANEUVERING IN ANTICIPATION OF POST-TITO YUGOSLAVIA. HE
EMPHASIZED THAT VIRTUALLY ALL YUGOSLAV LEADERS ARE ANTI-

SOVIET AND THOUGHT THAT THE MANEUVERING IS MORE RELATED TO
INTERNAL POLITICS.

5. HE ALSO SAID THAT BREZHNEV HAS TWICE IN THE LAST YEAR
INDICATED HIS INTEREST IN VISITING YUGOSLAVIA BUT THAT TITO
PUT HIM OFF. HE SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS YUGOSLAVIA'S DE-
TERIORATING RELATIONS WITH THE WEST WAS PART OF A DELIBERATE
PLOY TO ENABLE THE YUGOSLAVS TO ARGUE THAT FOR REASONS OF BALANCE

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